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CHAIRPERSON JAMES:

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Robert Hedlund? I don't think he is here.

1 Fred Sinclair.

2 MR. SINCLAIR: Yes. My name is Fred
3 Sinclair. I was for five years employed at Foxwoods
4 Resort Casino, a wholly-owned, unincorporated,
5 irresponsible and virtually unregulated instrumentality
6 of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe. Ironically, I'm here
7 in the great city of Boston to speak about taxation
8 without representation and the effects of abuse of
9 power.

10 You see, I found out the hard way the
11 ramifications of working for an employer who is not
12 held to the fair labor standards and lawful criteria of
13 the United States of American and the State of
14 Connecticut. Even though I paid both state and federal
15 income taxes during the five years I worked at
16 Foxwoods, I lost the right to use the system supported
17 by those taxes in any practical sense.

18 I know the Pequots boast that their court
19 system is more efficient than our system of justice but
20 this is no more than a farce. There is absolutely no
21 fair mediator or resolution for the residents of
22 Connecticut in the boundaries of Pequot nation and
23 Foxwoods, one of the state's largest employers.

1 I must point out that Pequots do not
2 oversee the daily operations at Foxwoods, they've hired
3 a group of upper management who are protected by a
4 contract. And they have the power to protect people
5 they've personally hired. This creates and enables an
6 abuse of power situation that is out of control,
7 considering it hides behind the sovereign cloak of the
8 tribe. They actually have a department that is falsely
9 named employee relations, which only another branch of
10 the same management, set up to protect their own best
11 interests.

12 There are very few members of this upper
13 management, if any at all, who are long term residents
14 of the State of Connecticut, and yet they advertise
15 they are here for Connecticut and Connecticut's people.
16 The honest truth is, only a few people really profit
17 from Foxwoods' existence, it is not the customers,
18 gamblers who are effected by a devastating addictive
19 illness and it's not the Connecticut residents who make
20 up the majority of employees who have built Foxwoods
21 into a billion dollar venture and yet are not
22 represented as a majority.

23 Just like the illegal pyramid scam, only a
24 few entities at the top rake in the profits while

1 people at the bottom can lose everything. These
2 entities are the Pequot Tribe, the contracted members
3 of upper management and those closely related, and
4 unfortunately, our own governments, who have sold out
5 our rights for major payoffs such as a slot revenue
6 contract and questionable donations to all major
7 political parties.

8 If you'd like to argue that the slot
9 revenue trickles down to my level and improves my
10 standard of living, don't bother, my rights are not for
11 sale at any price. And I know that the short term gain
12 will be offset by the long term devastating ripple
13 effect placed upon the economy when gamblers lose their
14 savings, their homes and lives, because of an
15 addiction.

16 I'm not here trying to destroy Foxwoods, I
17 am part Cherokee and I support the dream of the Pequots
18 and their success. I was at the original employer
19 rally in 1992 and actually believed that they cared
20 about their employees. I put my heart, soul and
21 thousands of uncompensated hours into Foxwoods, even
22 though my part may be considered small, I helped the
23 Pequots achieve their dream, only to be severely
24 injured, harassed, stripped of my position, my rights,

1 my job and my health benefits, by the abusive upper
2 management they are responsible for.

3 I'm here to remind you that the principle
4 of equality of rights, opportunity and treatment is
5 important to everyone.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you